

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 EUR-12

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 5976

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 06591

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJECT: COCOM LIST REVIEW - IL 1763 - FIBROUS AND
FILAMENTARY MATERIALS

REFS: A. COCOM DOC REV (74) 1763/1

B. STATE 42329

C. OECD PARIS 4163

SUMMARY: DISCUSSIONS ON MARCH 12 CONCERNING A REVISED UK PROPOSAL TO EXCLUDE CERTAIN CARBON FIBRES FROM THE MATERIALS COVERED BY IL 1763 WERE CONFUSED BY THE FACT THAT ALTHOUGH BRITISH INTEREST WAS IN FIBER PRODUCTS COVERED BY SUBITEM (A), THEY HAD ACTUALLY STRESSED BILATERALLY WITH THE US AS WELL AS WITH THE COMMITTEE CHANGE IN SUBITEM (B). THE UK WITHDREW THEIR PROPOSAL TO AMEND (B) WHEN IT LEARNED OF THE INADVERTENCE AND OFFERED A COMPROMISE ON (A) WHICH ALL OF THE DELEGATIONS EXCEPT THAT OF THE US APPROVED. IN VIEW OF THE EXTREME COMPLEXITY OF DEALING WITH THE REMAINING SUBITEM, NO RECOMMENDATION HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE USDEL EXCEPT THAT LIST REVIEW TECHNICAL EXPERT DYTRT, WHO HAS RECEIVED ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FROM THE BRITISH, BE ASKED TO PURSUE THIS QUESTION AND THAT A POSITION BE FORWARDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

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1. THE UK DEL EXPLAINED THAT A PARAMETRIC APPROACH TO

ITS PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE COVERAGE OF CARBON FIBRES HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE US WHICH SEES SOME OBJECTION TO THAT WORDING. THE UK EXPLAINED THAT IT DOES NOT ENTIRELY AGREE WITH THE US AND EXPECTS THAT THE US WILL REPORT MORE FULLY ON ITS OBJECTIONS. MEANWHILE THE UK WOULD BE WILLING TO REDUCE THE SPECIFIC MODULUS FIGURE CITED REF C FROM "7.5 X 10 TO THE 8TH POWER" TO "5 X 10 TO 8TH POWER" AND ASKED ALL DELS INCLUDING THE USDEL FOR VIEWS ON THE REDUCED FIGURE.

2. THE UK DEL DESCRIBED THE HISTORY OF THE CARBON FIBRE AS BEING RELATED TO TWO ORIGINAL TYPES, THE ONE HAVING HIGH MODULUS (STIFFNESS) AND THE OTHER HAVING HIGH TENSILE STRENGTH, WHICH WERE DEVELOPED FOR AEROSPACE USE. IT IS NOT THESE FIBRES WHICH IT WISHED TO RELEASE BUT RATHER A THIRD FIBRE WHICH DID NOT HAVE THE HIGH MODULUS AND TENSILE STRENGTH OF THE FIRST TWO AND WAS CONTINUOUSLY PRODUCEABLE, ECONOMICAL AND SUCCESSFULLY USED IN GOLF EQUIPMENT, BOATS, AUTO BODIES AND OTHER CONSUMER PRODUCTS. IT HAS NO MILITARY USE AND IS MADE IN EUROPE, JAPAN, AND THE US. AGAINST THAT BACKGROUND HE WISHED TO ASK THE US WHY IT COULD NOT ACCEPT 7.5 X 8 TO THE 10TH POWER MODULUS FIGURE AND WHAT IT THOUGHT OF A 5 X 8 TO 10TH POWER MODULUS CUT-OFF.

3. THE BELGIAN DEL INQUIRED ABOUT A DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE ENGLISH AND FRENCH TEXTS OF (A)(2). WHEN THE BRITISH DEL REPLIED THAT THE KIND OF COMMERCIAL FIBRE

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AT INTEREST IS ONLY CAUGHT BY (A), IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THE UK HAD UNINTENTIONALLY MISLED THE US AND THE COMMITTEE BY PROPOSING THE AMEND (B) AS WELL. THE UK PROMPTLY WITHDREW ITS PROPOSAL ON (B) AND THE US STATED THAT ITS POSITION HAD BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS. THE UK FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT THEIR USE OF THE WORD "COMMERCIAL" IS INTENDED TO CONNOTE THAT THE FIBRE IS PRODUCED IN LARGE QUANTITY AND SOLD FREELY FOR MANY CIVIL USES, BUT LATER AGREED THAT "MANUFACTURED COMMERCIAL" COULD BE DROPPED BECAUSE IT APPEARED TO BE TOO VAGUE.

4. IN THE VOTING, THE US RESERVED FOR STUDY AND PERHAPS FURTHER BILATERAL DISCUSSION, NETHERLANDS COULD ACCEPT THE UK PROPOSAL "IF THERE IS A REAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE FIBRES IN (A) AND (B)." ALL THE OTHER P.C.'S HAD NO OBJECTION WITH FRANCE, JAPAN AND CANADA IN AD REF POSITIONS.

5. UK BILATERALLY INFORMED US THAT AEROSPACE AND NUCLEAR AUTHORITIES REFERRED TO IN STATE 247055, 11/8/74 HAVE FOUND THEIR PROPOSALS UNOBJECTIONABLE. HOWEVER THERE HAS BEEN NO DISCUSSION WITH OR BY US COLLEAGUES IN THE SAME FIELDS CONCERNING THE UK PROPOSED PARAMETERS. BRITISH HAVE PROVIDED DYTRT WITH FURTHER DETAILS WHICH REQUIRE DISCUSSION WITH US CONFIDENTIAL

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AUTHORITIES KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE USES AND PRODUCTION OF THESE FIBRES. BELIEVE THAT NO ACTION TOWARD A US POSITION ON THE LATEST BRITISH PROPOSALS IS FEASIBLE UNTIL HIS RETURN. REQUEST INFORMATION AND/OR INSTRUCTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: CONTACT SPONGBERG OR OTHER DOD AUTHORITIES THAT ARE COGNIZANT OF HIGHLY CLASSIFIED PROJECT PROBLEMS AND HAVE THEM BILATERAL WITH THEIR UK COUNTERPARTS AT WHITEHALL AND ALDERMASTON. UK DELEGATION COULD GET NO ANSWER FROM THEIR AUTHORITIES OTHER THAN "NO PROBLEM" RE THE SUBJECT FIBERS.
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